

Agency 28 - Department Of Veterans' Affairs

Statutory Authority:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs was created by LB 187 and LB 240 of the 1947 Session of the Legislature. Its duties and organization are outlined in Article 3, Chapter 80, Section 314,317-321,323 and 324, Article 4, Chapter 80, Section 401-412 and Article 9, Chapter 80, Section 901-903, Article 13, Chapter 12, Section 1301. The agency also has a complete set of Rules and Regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

Vision Statement:

It is the vision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs that all Nebraska veterans and their dependents will have a quality of life that is dignified and acceptable in our society, reflective of the appreciation Nebraskans have for the freedoms won and preserved by veterans.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is to provide assistance to Nebraska veterans and their dependents in acquiring county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to this country.

1. Administer state benefit programs for qualified Nebraska veterans and eligible dependents.
2. Prepare and present cases on state and federal benefits for qualified Nebraska veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
3. Serve as the state's chief advocate for the veteran's position on all issues, legislative or otherwise, that impact their benefits, their status or their social well-being.
4. To operate and maintain a State Veterans' Cemetery System that will afford eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents the opportunity for a dignified burial in a place of perpetual beauty.

Goals:

Goals for the Department of Veterans' Affairs are as follows:

1. Improve the quality of all services provided to veterans, their spouses or dependents.
2. Enhance relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals that impact the veteran community.
3. Increase the knowledge of all service officers and other appropriate officials about veterans benefits.
4. Increase the number of eligible Nebraska veterans and dependents who may receive state and federal benefits.
5. Increase the awareness and appreciation among Nebraskans for the sacrifices made by veterans.
6. Maintain or expand upon the range of state and federal benefits available to veterans.
7. Operate and maintain a State Veterans' Cemetery System that will be responsive to the needs of veterans and reflect the appreciation Nebraskans have for veterans.
8. Use every means possible to improve communications with veterans' advocates and organizations that serve veterans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	596,907	639,553	627,421	662,981	660,508	726,175
Cash Fund	1,797	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	598,704	639,553	627,421	662,981	660,508	726,175

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Program 036 - Veterans' Affairs

Program Objectives:

1. Administer the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to provide aid promptly to needy veterans and their eligible dependents.
2. Process applications for Waiver of Tuition for children, spouse, widow or widowers.
3. Maintain military discharges for all veterans leaving the military who request that Nebraska be provided a copy.
4. Process applications for Tuition Credit for Active Reservists.
5. Maintain a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who shall have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and whose mortal remains rest in Nebraska.
6. Maintain a Service Office that assists veterans and their dependents in applying for federal benefits.
7. Process applications for admittance to the Nebraska Veterans' Homes.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	589,407	639,553	627,421	662,981	629,543	695,210
Cash Fund	1,797	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	591,204	639,553	627,421	662,981	629,543	695,210

Performance Measures:

Description	FY00 Actual	FY01 Current	FY02 Request	FY03 Request
NVA Fund Applications Processed	1995	2000	2060	2120
NVA Fund Payments	\$1,411,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,700,000
Waiver of Tuition Applications Processed	164	170	175	180
Discharges Received and Filed	1822	1800	1800	1800
Discharge Requests	2861	3000	3110	3220
Tuition Credit for Reservists	66	65	65	65
Grave Registrations	1713	1700	1700	1700
State Service Office, new POA's Received	1400	1500	1600	1700
Veterans Home Applications Processed	276	300	325	350
# Vet Organizat Recognized by the State	8	8	8	8
NDVA Accredited w/State Recogn Organizat	5	5	5	5
NDVA Accredited w/Other Organizations	3	3	3	3
# FTE that hold Accreditations	5	5	5	5
Annual Accreditation Training for SSO 4-FTE	6	6	6	6
Newsletter Articles and Mailings	203	205	205	205
County Vet Serv Off Training Conferences	2	2	2	2
Speak at NACD District & State Meetings	7	7	7	7
# of Presentations by Director	47	50	50	50
# of Presentations by Staff	52	55	55	55
# of High School Diplomas to WWII Vets	700	400	0	0

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Program 037 - Veterans' Cemetary System

Program Objectives:

Operate and maintain a State Veterans' Cemetery System that will be responsive to the needs of veterans and reflect the appreciation Nebraskans have for veterans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY00	Approp FY01	Request FY02	Recom FY02	Request FY03	Recom FY03
General Fund	7,500	0	0	0	30,965	30,965
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	7,500	0	0	0	30,965	30,965

Performance Measures:

Achieving all design, construction and operational goals.